

are being treated for diabetes, hypertension, and a variety of illnesses relating to arthritis. They have a monthly income of \$1,600 a month. They are spending more than \$400 of it on prescription medicine—25 percent of their monthly income for an older couple 83 and 79 in our home State of Oregon just for prescription medicine.

From Silverton, OR, a senior sent me a copy of all of her prescription drugs for 1 year. She spent more than \$1,000. Her annual income that year was \$868 a month. She is spending more than 10 percent of her income on prescription drugs.

From Astoria, OR, a couple on a modest income wrote that for the first 10 months of 1999 they spent over \$5,000 on their prescription drug costs.

What Senator SNOWE and I have said is that we have an opportunity to deal with this on a bipartisan basis. We can steer clear of price controls and one-size-fits-all Federal policy. We can use a model that we know works. It is based on the Federal Employee Health Plan, one that serves all of us and our families here in the Senate.

Our bill is called the SPICE Program, the Senior Prescription Insurance Coverage Equity Act.

Our legislation now is the only bipartisan prescription drug bill now before the Senate.

Frankly, I am very confident in the bipartisan team I see assembled from the Finance Committee with Chairman ROTH and Senator MOYNIHAN.

I would like to see as a result of seniors sending in to all the Senators—as this poster says, “Send in your prescription drug bills”—I would like to see the Senate Finance Committee have the opportunity under Chairman ROTH and Senator MOYNIHAN to devise a good bipartisan proposal in this area.

Senator SNOWE and I have an approach that we think works. More than 54 Members in the Senate have voted for the funding mechanism we have proposed. We have a majority in the Senate already on record supporting the funding approach that we would take.

Frankly, when Chairman ROTH and Senator MOYNIHAN sit down, they may well have better ideas for dealing with it. It is not as if Senator SNOWE and I are saying we have the last word in terms of dealing with this issue. What we are saying is given the severity of the problem, given the stakes and the chance to do some real good with anticoagulant drugs where \$1,000 a year worth of help can save \$100,000 in terms of the cost of a stroke, let's go forward, and let's not let this issue become fodder for the 2000 election.

I am going to wrap up because the chairman and Senator MOYNIHAN are here. They want to talk about this important trade bill, which I also happen to support.

But I hope seniors will keep sending me copies of these bills. Just as the

poster says, “Send your prescription drug bills” to your Senator. Senator SNOWE and I are collecting these.

We are going to talk again and again on the floor of the Senate about the importance of this issue.

I think we can do this with market forces. We can use an approach that gives senior citizens the kind of bargaining power that a health maintenance organization has.

What is so sad about this is these vulnerable older people, such as the ones I have described in these letters, are getting hit twice.

First, Medicare doesn't cover their prescriptions. When the program began in 1965, it didn't cover the cost of prescriptions. So there is no coverage either under Part A or Part B of Medicare for most of the Nation's seniors.

Second, the seniors end up subsidizing the big business. Big buyers can get discounts.

So you have big buyers, health plans, and a variety of big purchasers using their marketplace clout in order to get a good price, and the senior citizen in Silverton or Pendleton, the Presiding Officer's hometown, who walks in and buys their prescription off the street ends up subsidizing those big buyers. That is not right.

Senator SNOWE and I are going to continue to try as a result of our conversation with colleagues to catalyze a bipartisan effort to address this issue.

I think the question of adding prescription drugs to Medicare would be a real legacy for this session of the Senate.

I think about all of the accomplishments of Senator MOYNIHAN in this health care field over the years, what he has done in terms of graduate medical education, and what he has done in research is extraordinary. I would like to see as part of the great legacy that he leaves for his career in the Senate action on this bipartisan issue before he retires at the conclusion of this session of Congress.

Mr. President, I will be back on the floor—I know Senator SNOWE intends to as well—talking about this issue. We hope seniors send us a copy of their prescription drug bills. We are going to address this issue in a bipartisan way. I will be back on the floor soon to talk about this issue and bring other real, live, concrete cases to the Senate in hopes, as the Presiding Officer of the Senate and I have done at home in Oregon, we can work on this in a bipartisan kind of way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise once more to thank our dear colleague, the Senator from Oregon, for his remarks and his typically self-effacing mode. He said we may not have the last word. Indeed, we may not. But we have the first word. We have to do this to-

gether; that is, both sides of the aisle. We can. He and the Senator from Maine have the votes. But we need a vehicle.

His most important point is that medication is now making that great move from treatment of disease to prevention. That is always the great advance in health for everyone. The single most important health measures that we have done in the last century have been to clean up our water supplies so that we don't get ill. These drugs do the same.

He is right. I am with him.

I yield the floor, sir.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 434

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate turn to the consideration of H.R. 434 at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, notwithstanding rule XXII, and the yeas and nays be vitiated on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MOYNIHAN. There is no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROTH. In light of this agreement, there will be no further votes this evening.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New York.

#### IN HONOR OF SENATOR JOHN CHAFEE

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, as have so many of our colleagues today, I rise to speak in memory of and in praise of John Chafee. He was my dearest friend for nigh onto a quarter century.

We came to the Senate together in 1977. As it happens, we were both appointed to the same committees. As we all know, the life of a Senator very much depends on the committees he or she is appointed to and the amount of time that they remain on those committees.

We were appointed to the Committee on Finance with its enormous range of jurisdiction, and to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. Only recently at that point had the “environment” come up and made its way onto the title of what had previously

been a Public Works Committee. We worked together on both committees from the very first. These are exceptional committees. Possibly because of the great common interests that are dealt with, they have been exceptionally bipartisan committees.

I point out at this point we have three measures before the Senate: The trade legislation which we will go to tomorrow morning, the tax extender legislation which we must get to, and the Medicare and Medicaid amendments to the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. All three of these measures come to the floor with practically unanimous agreement. Two cases were unanimous; on another, just a voice vote with two dissents.

John Chafee, ranking Republican, as Senator ROTH, the chairman, would agree, was part of this consensus development from the first. He was instinctively a man of this body, and the national interests always came first. I can recall an occasion on the Committee on Environment and Public Works when we took a vote and afterwards John said: Hold it, hold it, did we just have a vote along party lines? We haven't had one of those in 15 years on this committee.

It happened we had one, and that moment passed.

He was deeply involved in environmental matters—the world environment as well as our own. I tended to emphasize public works, and we had a remarkably reinforcing and effective time, or so we like to think. Everyone has commented on his work.

On the Finance Committee—which not everyone understands is, in fact, also the health committee of the Senate—we deal with Medicare and Medicaid. John did a great many things. The one that was so typical and wonderful was to transmute gradually—over a quarter century—the Medicaid program from a program of health insurance for persons on welfare under title IV(a) of the Social Security Act such that we confined the population who could benefit to those persons who were dependent on welfare and added another incentive to dependency. He slowly moved this program to a health insurance program for low-income Americans. It was brilliantly done, not least of all because he never said he was instituting it; it just happened at his insistent and consistent behest.

The last great matter we addressed together was the effort to postpone, so as not to reject, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. He was deeply involved with that. It is perhaps not easily accessible to others now that he was of a generation—I suppose I was of that generation—who can very arguably be said to owe their lives to the atom bomb. He was with marines already in the Solomon Islands. I was in the Navy; I would soon be on a landing craft. We were all headed for Honshu.

The war would go on but then stopped because of that terrible, difficult, necessary decision President Truman made.

It was the most natural thing in the world for someone such as John Chafee to spend the rest of his life, in effect, trying to ensure that such a terrible act never was repeated. He was deeply attached to maintaining the essentials of the antiballistic missile program and believed that a rejection of the test ban treaty would then lead to our insisting on that. He did not prevail, but he was witnessed, as he was all of his life, as a man of valor, a man of courage, and such a decent man.

He was chairman of the Republican Conference. Around 1990, I believe, he was challenged, and openly—legitimately, in politics of our type—as too liberal. It was a very close contest, decided by a single vote. Another colleague of his from that side of the aisle, of course, thought the honorable thing to do was to tell him in advance that he would be voting against Senator Chafee's role as party conference chairman and came over to John on the floor and told him this. It was, in effect, devastating news. John's reaction was, "Oh, dear." Never a word of acrimony. He told me about it smiling the next day. He was hurting a bit, but he smiled even then.

He was so wide in his concerns and his empathy and his sympathy. I can only say all of us deal with special interests; we all have special interests. But the only one I can identify with him was the Rhode Island Jewelry Manufacturers. Never did a trade bill pass through our committee without a little essay by him on the subject of the necessity to protect this important sector of the American economy; and he did, and without difficulty. If he wanted it, we wanted him to have it.

I close with the lines of W.B. Yeats, a wonderful poem, "The Municipal Gallery Revisited," which concludes:

Think where man's glory most begins and ends.

And say my glory was I had such friends.

We, all of us, share in that as we contemplate our loss, a loss which is more than made up by the great glory of his friendship. Liz and I send our deepest love to Ginny and to his family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, a life lived richly is the phrase that comes to my mind as I think of John Chafee: A life lived richly, not of the material things of this world but in the magnificent service he provided from the time before he was old enough to vote until his dying day; a life lived richly in the love and honor and respect of those who knew him best, many of whom are Members of this Senate, but love and honor and respect that came from his fellow citizens of Rhode Island and

from men and women all across the United States of America.

I knew John Chafee for only 18 years. The word "only" and the phrase "18 years" do not generally go together, but even that relatively extended period of 18 years was only a modest fraction of the life of service performed by John Chafee. As a U.S. Marine before his 21st birthday, and through many battles and two wars, as Governor of the State of Rhode Island, as Secretary of the Navy, and for almost 23 years as a Member of this body, John Chafee dedicated his life and his entire career to the people whom he represented in the State of Rhode Island and, beyond that, to the grand concept that is the United States of America.

Unlike my eloquent colleague from New York who just spoke, I only served on a committee of this body with John Chafee for a relatively short 2 years. But I do remember vividly the work of several years in his office here in the Capitol in what seemed at the beginning almost a forlorn hope to balance the budget of the United States and to put this Nation and its economy on the sound footing that has been so evident in our economic successes over the course of the last few years.

As was the case with his work on the Committee on Environment and Public Works, that effort was a bipartisan effort, with most of its time being spent with the cochairmanship of the Senator from Louisiana, Mr. BREAU. It was not at first successful, but it was the immediate parent of the success that this body, the entire Congress, and the President of the United States had in 1997 with a result that was greater than the expectations of any of those who began that lonely struggle or who were in on its completion. It might accurately have been said that success would not have taken place as dramatically or as soon without the dedicated efforts of John Chafee.

On a lesser but still significant level because, of course, each one of us does represent a particular constituency, I can remember vividly the way in which John Chafee, a Senator from Rhode Island, would make requests of me in connection with each of the year's Interior appropriations bills I have managed, softly and diffidently, but with a persuasive manner and reasoning and a persistence that lasted until the conclusion itself—a conclusion that, if my memory serves me correctly, was always favorable to Rhode Island and to the specific requests John Chafee made, partly on the merits of the case and partly because of the respect and love I held for John Chafee, along with all of my colleagues.

He did love his small State. He cared deeply about its people and carried the burden and responsibility of representing them both lightly and well. John Chafee, not surprisingly for a former member of the U.S. Marines

with many battles and much conflict under the flag of his country in his early life, was not afraid to be alone even in this body and even in contentious times when he believed, as he often did, that his position was the right one. Equally, he was not afraid to join with others to test his ideas against the ideas of others and to reach a conclusion that could command the respect and the votes of a majority of this body.

He was a highly successful Member of the Senate, and so we will miss him, even though, in a way, some can envy a man who, continuously from the age of 18 or 19 until his dying day, was permitted to serve his country in so many ways and in so vital a fashion.

Now we are constrained to bid him farewell. But he goes with our admiration, our respect, and our prayers.

Mr. ABRAHAM. I will speak briefly with respect to the passing of our dear colleague, John Chafee. He was a great friend to all Members, those who had the chance to work with him closely across the board from one side of the Chamber to the other. I think all felt the highest degree of respect and admiration for him. Today I want to express to his family my deepest condolences and those of my family.

A lot of great things have already been said about John Chafee's remarkable career both in public service and in service of his country, his academic achievements, as well as his professional achievements. I will have many memories of him. Probably one that will be the most vivid in a certain way is something I took note of after reading a book about the Korean war which talked about John Chafee. The book made reference to his very distinguishable way of walking, the sort of commanding stride with which he moved among the troops. After I read that, I started noticing the way he walked from one building to another of the Senate, and I noticed the same absolutely distinguishable stride with which he carried himself; somebody who was in command, somebody who moved purposefully forward to meetings, to the floor of the Senate, to attain the objectives which he had for his State and his country.

Certainly, anyone who had the chance to work with him, whether in the context of the issues that came before the Finance Committee or the Committee on Environment and Public Works, knows he brought to the Senate a great sense of dedication, commitment, integrity, and principle. We worked together quite a bit last go-round on the highway transportation bill. I remember on numerous occasions appearing in his office to make the plea for my State of Michigan. While he didn't have the ability to provide each and every Member with everything we wanted, he certainly put the time in to make sure he did the

best for all of us in our States. That was his way of addressing all the things that came before him.

It will be hard to move forward without him because we will all miss him, and I think as a collective chamber we will miss his leadership.

As I said to his family and those close to him, I offer both my condolences but, at the same time, I express how much admiration I had for him and how I hope all Members can draw from our experiences with Senator Chafee some insights into how to make sure we conduct ourselves as Senators, with integrity and with the willingness and ability to work together to achieve great things. He certainly achieved many great things in his career, and I hope other Members can come close in our careers to achieving what he did.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, when I first came to this body in the Congress that convened in January of 1981, I was the 100th Senator. There is no question about that. There is a certain degree of humility associated with that prized and coveted position.

As a consequence of the reality that we came in with 16 other Republican Senators in what was somewhat of a revolution associated with President Reagan, some suggested we came in on his coattails. Those of us who prided ourselves on our accomplishments were not ready to attribute totally that responsibility to President Reagan, but nonetheless we were fortunate to be here.

In the determination of how this place works, as a freshman Senator, one quickly has an opportunity to participate in the selection of committees. Being the 100th Senator, you take what is left and what you get. I found myself having perhaps made the choice, but clearly with the realization that while my first choice was the Finance Committee, my realistic choice was the Environment and Public Works Committee. At that time, Senator Chafee had taken over the chairmanship of that.

One of the interesting reflections is not too many of the Republicans, in spite of their seniority, knew what chairmanships were all about because it had been a long dry spell in the Senate—several decades.

In any event, I had an opportunity to serve with the late Senator John Chafee. As a junior member of that committee, I was quickly immersed in the technical aspects of such issues as emissions, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, clean water, clean air, the role of the Environmental Protection Agency, and a host of other eventualities that suggested that clearly there was an institutional memory associated with many of these issues. I found, much to my relief, that the late Senator Chafee was a patient, caring, and intensely dedicated Member of this body. I know many Members have discussed his military role, his individual

and personal sacrifice on behalf of our Nation in serving. Having dedicated his life to public service, I think it is a reflection of the type of American and unique Senator he was.

During that time on his committee, I was privileged to participate in significant events that were charged to his responsibility. Looking back on those instances, they were really opportunities to get to know and understand and appreciate the contribution Senator John Chafee made to the Senate.

Later, I had an opportunity to serve with him on the Republican health care task force. Even later, finally, after some 14 years in this body, I did get my first choice of committees, the Senate Finance Committee. John Chafee was on that committee as a senior member. John took over an obligation to coordinate the Republican health task force. John studied in depth the details of health care. He probably knew them better than anyone in this body. He cared very deeply about bettering the lives of those he met. I remember the morning meetings when he went into great depth on the health care issue and how we could meet our obligations to provide reasonable health care for the Nation. It was a disputed area of concern relative to a certain amount of partisanship, which occasionally raises its head around here. Nevertheless, John was above that; he was dedicated and committed to trying to accomplish something meaningful in that area. He never gave up, as he didn't on many of the issues about which he cared so deeply.

So as we look at John's desk and the flowers that adorn it, it is with fond memories that we think of a fine American and an outstanding Senator with whom we were privileged to serve for a number of years—in my own case, for some 19 years. I treasure that time with John Chafee. I shall miss his contribution to this body. We had certain disagreements from time to time on issues, as Senators do in this body, but I always respected where he stood. I always knew where he was coming from. He was a gentleman whose word was his bond.

Coincidentally, recently I made a telephone call to a friend who has been ill for some time. He was known to many in this body. The gentlemen's name is Duffy Wall. He was a friend to many Members of this body. Duffy Wall passed away yesterday, as well, at about 4:15 in the morning. I talked to his wife Sharon, who was kind enough to phone me and advise me that Duffy had passed on. It was kind of memorable that, in her reflection, she said, "You know, Frank, Duffy was a great friend of John Chafee's." She believed that Duffy wanted to go with Senator Chafee. So wherever the two are today, obviously, they have affection and great friendship. As Senators, we suffer the loss of our dear friend John Chafee.

I thought it fitting to add that there was another dear friend of ours and John Chafee's who also passed away yesterday morning.

Mr. President, I extend to Mrs. Chafee and her family my sincere sympathy. I also extend to Sharon and the Wall family our sympathy for the loss of Duffy Wall.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I offer my condolences to Ginny and the entire Chafee family for the loss of her husband, their father, and our friend, John Chafee.

When a great person leaves us, we know we can't replace him and we know have suffered the loss in a very personal way. All of us feel that loss with John Chafee. It is not just the loss of a Senator, it is someone now who is missing in our lives, and we have to deal with that in the way human beings have to deal with losses of this kind. Also, when a great man leaves us, when great people leave us, oftentimes they will put on the television screen the date of birth and the date of passing, and they did that in this case with John Chafee: 1922-1999. He was 77 remarkable years, Mr. President.

I had a conference in Omaha with young people recently on the question of how to save money. They were juniors and seniors. I have done this for 2 or 3 years in a row. Warren Buffett, a rather wealthy man, was our keynote speaker. He talked for a couple of minutes, and then he took questions. Two years ago, a young person said to him, "Mr. Buffett, I mean no disrespect, but aren't most wealthy people jerks?" Warren answered, "No, that is not my experience. Wealth just allows you to be a little more of what you already were. If you start off a jerk and become wealthy, you can be a real big jerk and hire lawyers for \$1,000 an hour and sue all your friends. On the contrary, if you start off a good person and you acquire wealth, you can be a really good person."

That was John Chafee. John was born into wealth and privilege. At the age of 19, after the United States was drawn into World War II after being attacked by Japan, he volunteered, but not for any special duty; he was an enlisted man in the U.S. Marine Corps. Among other places, he had to fight in one of the bloodiest battles in Guadalcanal. Then he went back to college, and the Korean conflict broke out, and there was no question that had he chosen to, he could have figured out a way not to go. But he went in this time as an officer commanding a rifle company.

I have had many occasions where I would say, "I was so impressed, John, by what you did"; and, of course, all of us who knew him would know he would blush and change the subject. He did not want praise. He didn't want people

to think he was anything special. He did this all as a consequence of the way he was. He didn't think he deserved any special attention at all.

Again, taking my Warren Buffett experience, in talking to the young people, he didn't talk about wealth. He said: You are born with three things—intelligence, endurance, and the opportunity to build integrity. You have to decide how much intelligence and endurance you are going to use. You build integrity every single day with the choices you make. Sometimes you make good choices, and sometimes they are bad.

I would scratch my head if somebody asked me to give them a choice John Chafee made that was bad, which produced inferior integrity. And I don't just mean the issues. I am impressed by what he did on the environment. He believed we needed to leave the world better than we found it. He knew we had to think beyond our lifetimes in order to do that. I was impressed by his courage on public safety. I never have and never would go as far as he did on gun control, but it took guts to do that. All of us who watched him do that had to admire that.

On health, there were always other people—the disabled and people who were born with less than he was born with. He didn't just fight with them, and he knew it wasn't for political reasons. He cared about the lives of other people. So I was impressed with what he did on all the issues. But the thing that moved me the most and causes me to say that I will miss this man and I will note his absence is that I consider what the world is like without him, and I think it is less without him. So it was considerably more as a consequence of the choice he made to be kind, the choice he made to be considerate, the choice he made to respect other people. That is a choice we all have to make. Are you going to be kind? You are not born with an attitude of kindness. You have to choose it. You have to choose to be considerate and respectful.

Again, I have been here for 10 years. I can't think of a single moment even when he was provoked that John Chafee ever said an unkind word about anybody. He would disagree. He would argue. I never heard him say an unkind word. That was a choice he made. It didn't come as a result of him being a man or a human being. It was a choice and a decision that he made. It was old school values, in my opinion.

As a consequence of that, I find myself wondering what life is going to be like without John Chafee.

I hope his wife and family understand what a big impact he made. John caused not just improvement in our laws, improvement of our country, and improvement of our world but improvement of our values.

For those of us who fall short of the mark that John Chafee laid down with

his behavior, there is an ideal of a goal that he set for ourselves.

I hope as we debate and make decisions about how we are going to treat one another that we remember the way John Chafee treated us. I think if we remember that, it is likely that we will treat not just one another better but as a consequence of that treatment this will be a better place, and the country will be a better place, and the world will be a better place as well.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to join so many of my colleagues in making a few remarks about our colleague, Senator John Chafee.

As we all know, many of us have risen over the last 2 days to speak of our memories of Senator Chafee and the friendships we have developed with him over the years. Because of my short time in the Senate, my experiences with Senator Chafee are more limited, but I have had ample time to observe Senator Chafee as the good, kind, and honorable man so many of my colleagues have spoken about in the last couple of days.

I can recall when I first came to the Senate and we were organizing. I wondered what my committee assignments would be. John Chafee, knowing of the interest of Idaho in natural resource issues, came to me and said I ought to try to get on the Environment and Public Works Committee which he chaired. I said: I would love to work with you on that committee. When the appropriate opportunity to make a selection came along, I ultimately did, make that choice and had the chance to work with Senator Chafee.

John Chafee represented what is good about American politics. Senator Chafee was a man of the highest principles and utmost integrity. The Washington Post referred to him as "a gentle but stubborn champion." That is exactly right.

I was remarking to one of our colleagues as we walked back from the Capitol Building after a matter of business earlier today that John was always friendly and helpful and was such a kind man, but he was also a firm man in championing the principles he advocated. I believe that description of him, "a gentle but stubborn champion," is a very apt way to describe him.

John Chafee was deeply committed to the issues he undertook to fight for, and, at the same time, he was always a gentleman and a statesman. Senator Chafee was instantaneously a likable person. Part of his charm was he was entirely unassuming and friendly.

Perhaps what made his demeanor more unique was he had enjoyed such an impressive career. Senator Chafee clearly worked hard to make a difference throughout his entire life. His career accomplishments were extraordinary, but then he was an extraordinary man. These things have already been said, but I want to repeat them.

He served in World War II at Guadalcanal and Korea. He was a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School and served in the Rhode Island House of Representatives and as Governor of Rhode Island. In 1969, he was appointed Secretary of the Navy and served in that post for 3½ years during one of the most critical times in our history.

Senator Chafee's life's work has been furthering the issues he believed would make America a better place. His commitment to the issues and his good nature are what I will miss the most.

I knew if I needed to talk with someone who would have a unique and heartfelt perspective on an issue we were debating, all I had to do was sit down at his desk, where there are now flowers, and talk to John. He would have thought through the issue carefully and whatever his position on it, he would have a good, balanced, thoughtful reason for it.

I particularly want to share some of the personal experiences I have had with him.

Being from a different part of the country—I come from the West and John comes from the Northeast—it is no secret those of us from different parts of the country often approach environmental issues and some of the natural resource issues in a different way, and that was true about John and me on some of the issues. We found a lot of common ground where we worked together, and we found those issues where we were different.

What was always remarkable to me is that he was always willing to work with me to try to understand my point of view and to see if the issues and concerns of the people I represent in Idaho could be squared with the issues and the concerns of the people he represented in Rhode Island, and if the interests of the Nation could be brought together in a solution that found common ground, that was one of his strengths.

I note he always engaged the people in our hearings in a friendly fashion that made them feel at home and at ease. He took a direct interest in legislation and in each committee member's personal interest in legislation which was important to them.

He personally worked closely with me on legislation on which we found we could develop common ground. It is because he chose to make his life one of service that so many people today stand in honor of him. America truly lost one of our great leaders. I believe he stands as a tremendous example to all of us of the kind of difference you can make if you are willing to put your life into the service of the people of this country.

John Chafee truly did that. On behalf of all of us in America, I say thank you.

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL ACT

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I rise to express my gratitude and my appreciation to the House of Representatives for an action it took last week, under the leadership of Congressman GOODLING, chairman of the House committee dealing with education. The House has now passed the Academic Achievement For All Act, or Straight A's, a concept and a crusade in which Mr. GOODLING and I have joined as sponsors in our respective Houses of Congress. It is so dramatic a reform, so dramatic an expression of understanding on the part of the majority of the Members of the House of Representatives, that those who provide educational services for our children—their teachers and principals and superintendents and elected school board members, not to mention their parents—ought to be empowered to use the money they receive from the Federal Government for that education in a way they deem best, given the circumstances of each child and of each of the 17,000 school districts in the United States.

That philosophy is very much at variance with the standard philosophy of Acts of Congress, which increasingly over the years have told our schools in detail what they must teach, how they must teach it, and how they must account for it if they are to receive a modest percentage of their budgets that Congress itself supplies to them.

In order to pass Straight A's through the House of Representatives, Mr. GOODLING and his supporters had to scale it back to a 10-State experiment.

Even at that level, I believe it will be a dramatic reform, not simply because it provides this trust in our local educators and parents and school board members, but because it carries with it a requirement for accountability that is a real bottom line requirement; that is to say, in order to take advantage of Straight A's, a State must have a system of determining, through some type of examination or a test, whether or not it is actually improving the educational achievement of the children under its care. It is only results that count in Straight A's and not how you fill out the forms or what the auditors say you have done with the money.

I believe we in the Senate will take up Straight A's in that form, or in some similar form, sometime during the winter or very early spring of the year 2000 when we deal with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. But I am delighted that we have made such progress already in the House of Representatives.

Simply to ratify some of my remarks, I want to share with my colleagues comments that we have received from across the country about this dramatic change in Federal education policy:

I am pleased to offer my support to the Academic Achievement for All Act. This pro-

posal, if enacted into law, would serve to complement the Commonwealth of Virginia's nationally-acclaimed national education reforms.

Governor James Gilmore of Virginia.

A new relationship between the states and Washington, as reflected in Straight A's, can refocus federal policies and funds on increasing student achievement.

Governor Jeb Bush of Florida.

Straight A's would allow us to use federal funds to implement our goals while assuring taxpayers that every dollar spent on education is a dollar spent to boost children's learning.

Governor John Engler of Michigan.

I'm not a Democrat or a Republican. I'm a superintendent. And what GORTON is trying to do would be the best for our kids.

Superintendent Joseph Olchefske, Seattle public schools.

The Straight A's Act will allow those closest to the action to make decisions about education in their own local school district.

Robert Warnecke, Washington State Retired Teachers Association.

Senator GORTON's Straight A's proposals is well-conceived with great flexibility for states and districts. It would help to focus federal resources where they are most needed.

Janet Barry, Issaquah Superintendent and 1996 National Superintendent of the Year.

I look forward to the debate in the Senate on these changes with particular delight because the House of Representatives' majority has already said that this is the direction in which we ought to lead the country.

(The remarks of Mr. CRAPO pertaining to the introduction of S. 1795 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. CRAPO. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 761

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I would like to propound a unanimous consent request.

I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader, may proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 243, S. 761, under the following limitations:

That there be 1 hour for debate equally divided in the usual form, and the only amendment in order to the bill be a manager's substitute amendment to be offered by Senators ABRAHAM, WYDEN, and LOTT.

I further ask unanimous consent that following the use or yielding back of